

Message Text

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10

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-10

JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-05

OES-05 OMB-01 L-02 H-02 /075 W

----- 018764

R 221030Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1945

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY TIRIPOLI

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

UNCLAS ALGIERS 0494

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, AG, CASC

SUBJ: ARREST OF NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS

REF: ALGIERS 483 (NOTAL) AND PREVIOUS

1. ALGERIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE PUBLICIZED DRUG ARREST CASE IN PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN BY OFFICIALS FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE ON FEBRUARY 15. DETAILS OF THE CONFERENCE WERE PUBLISHED IN ALGIERS DAILY "EL MOUDJAHID" OF FEBRUARY 17 AND 19 AND SUMMARY APPEARS IN "LE MONDE" ON FEBRUARY 18.

2. GOA CLAIMS TO HAVE ARRESTED TOTAL OF 99 FOREIGNERS, AMONG WHOM WERE 30 WOMEN. TOTAL INCLUDES 23 ITALIANS, 16 DUTCH, 10 DANES, 10 BRITISH, 10 MOROCCANS, 7 AMERICANS, 6 SWISS, 4 FRENCH, 3 WEST GERMANS, 2 NORWEGIANS, 2 SPANISH, 2 LIBYANS, 2 CANADIANS, 1 AUSTRALIAN AND 1 TUNISIAN. (THERE MAY BE SMALL DISCREPANCIES IN THESE NUMBERS, AS, FOR EXAMPLE, THE FACT THAT THERE ARE 8 AMERICANS IN THE TOTAL, NOT 7.) IN COMPARISON, REPORT NOTES THAT ALGERIAN

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AUTHORITIES SEIZED 110 KILOS OF DRUGS IN 1972,

140 KILOS IN 1973 AND 123 KILOS IN 1974.

3. PRESS CONFERENCE DESCRIBED THE DETAILS OF HOW THE COURIERS WERE RECRUITED AND HOW THEY CHOSE THEIR ITINERARY. DRUGS IN QUESTION WERE ALL BOUGHT IN MOROCCO AND WERE DESTINED FOR WESTERN EUROPE, CANADA AND U.S.

4. PUBLISHED REPORTS OF THE CONFERENCE INDICATE THAT GOA INTENDS TO DEAL HARSHLY WITH THE TRAFFICKERS. FOLLOWING EXCERPTS SERVE AS EXAMPLE: "IN THE LONG RUN, THIS TRAFFIC WOULD HAVE INEVITABLY DRAGGED INTO ITS WAKE VICTIMS FROM OUR COUNTRY, ESPECIALLY AMONG THE YOUTH", "IT IS TRULY AN AGRESSION AGAINST OUR COUNTRY", "THESE TRAFFICERS DESERVE NEITHER PITY NOR INDULGENCE". IN THIS REGARD, THE RULING NATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL DECIDED ON FEBRUARY 13 TO INCREASE THE PENALTIES FOR CRIMES AND MISDEMEANORS CONTRARY TO GOOD MORAL CONDUCT ("CE QUI PORTENT ATTEINTE AUX BONNES MOEURS DES CITOYENS"). WHAT THE NEW PENALTIES WILL BE HAS YET TO BE ANNOUNCED.
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